

Message Text

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44

ACTION VOE-00

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P R 051345Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2061

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS JIDDA 5493

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, XF, XI

SUBJECT: VISAS - A-2 VISAS FOR SAUDI STUDENTS

REF: 1. STATE 181230, 2. JIDDA 4895

FOLLOWING PARAS ARE KEYED TO REFERENCE (1):

A) EMBASSY ISSUED ABOUT FOUR THOUSAND (4,000) A-2 VISAS TO SAUDI STUDENTS EXCLUSIVELY DURING FY-1975. HIGH ISSUANCE CAUSED BY A-2 MULTIPLE 6 MONTHS REQUIREMENT. BY TIME SAUDI STUDENTS COMPLETE SCHOOL YEAR, VACATION SAUDI ARABIA AND RETURN U.S., NEW VISA NEEDED. SAUDI A-2 VISAS COMprise ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF TOTAL NIV OUTPUT. ISSUANCES ARE RECURRENT EACH YEAR AND INCREASING BY APPROXIMATELY 25 PERCENT ANNUALLY. THE PRACTICE OF A-2 ISSUANCES CONTINUES AND PERHAPS A UNCLASSIFIED

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GREATER PROPORTION OF SAUDI STUDENTS STUDY IN THE STATES THAN OF ANY

OTHER NATION, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF IRAN.

B) F-1 VISAS ARE ISSUED TO NON-GOVERNMENT STUDENTS FINANCED BY GOVERNMENT BUT WITH NO GOVERNMENT WORK COMMITMENT, AND OTHER PRIVATE APPLICANTS. THESE INCLUDE A SPRINKLING OF SAUDIS, BUT ARE MOSTLY NON-SAUDI NATIONALS. NO MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED (100) F-1S WERE ISSUED IN FY-1975.

C) A-2 VISAS, ANNOTATED "OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT STUDENT" ARE ISSUED IN JIDDA TO SAUDI STUDENTS IF IN SAUDI ARABIA, AND IF SAUDI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN JIDDA SENDS EMBASSY DIPLOMATIC NOTE DESIGNATING INDIVIDUAL AS SAUDI GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE, ON SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SPONSORED BY SAG AND UNDER CONTRACT TO RETURN TO WORK FOR SAG UPON CONCLUSION OF HIS OR HER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM. STUDENT APPLICANTS NOT MEETING THIS CRITERIA ARE PROCESSED AS F APPLICATIONS.

D) PRECEDENT FOR A-2 ISSUANCES SAUDI STUDENTS REVERT BACK AT LEAST 15 YEARS. PRACTICE BEGAN WITH ISSUANCES A-2 TO SCIONS OF ROYAL FAMILIES WHICH AT THE TIME WERE PROBABLY

THE ONLY STUDENT APPLICANTS. SAG ENCOURAGEMENT, BUILDUP OF SAG EDUCATIONAL MACHINERY GEARED TO SPONSORING, GUIDING, AND SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN U.S. AS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, ADMINISTRATIVE SIMPLICITY, AND U.S. GOVERNMENT INTEREST IN FACILITATING FLOW OF SAUDI STUDENTS TO U.S. ALL CONTRIBUTED TO SIZEABLE A-2 PROGRAM TODAY. SAG HAS MADE STATEMENTS THAT THERE EXISTS A BINDING AGREEMENT WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT COVERING PRIVILEGE, BUT SAYS IT CANNOT LOCATE AGREEMENT AND SUGGESTS THAT AGREEMENT RESIDES IN U.S. FILES. NO TRACE OF AN AGREEMENT CAN BE FOUND AMONG EMBASSY RECORDS. CLAIM FOR EXISTENCE OF AN AGREEMENT IS PROBABLY APOCRYPHAL.

3) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS APPLICATION BY SAUDI A-2 RECIPIENTS ARE EXTREMELY RARE. ONCE IN A WHILE SUCH PETITIONS OCCUR WHEN THE STUDENT HAS MARRIED AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.

F) JIDDA'S REFTEL (2) 4895 OF JULY 8, 1975 DISCOURSES ON PROBLEMS POST PERCEIVED IN U.S. RELATIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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IF DEPARTMENT REQUIRES STRICT ADMINISTRATION OF LAW, (I.E. F VISAS FOR ALL STUDENTS,) AND OUT-LINES RATIONALE FOR JIDDA'S STRONG RECOMMENDATION FOR CONTINUANCE STUDENT A-2 ISSUANCES AT THIS POST FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE. WE SAY AGAIN THAT IF F VISAS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS WE WILL HAVE A NASTY, TROUBLESOME SITUATION ON OUR HANDS. SAUDIS ARE NOT WELL ORGANIZED, AND RIGHT NOW THEIR EDUCATIONAL MISSION IN NEW YORK HANDLES ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO EDUCATION CULTURAL TRAINING, ENROLLMENT IN A

UNIVERSITY. IF EACH STUDENT HAD TO COME UP WITH HIS I-20 BEFORE GETTING HIS VISA, MANY SONS OF BIP'S WOULD MISS THE BOAT. THEY, THEIR PARENTS, THEIR RELATIVES AND SAG WOULD REGARD THIS ABANDONMENT BY USG OF A WELL-ESTABLISHED TRADITION AND A SIGN OF U.S. UNINTEREST AND HOSTILITY. THE NUMBER OF SAUDIS STUDENTS IN THE U.S. WOULD DROP. THE SAG WOULD ASK ITSELF (AND US) WHAT DOES THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WE ARE SUPPOSED TO ENJOY WITH THE USG AS A RESULT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER/CROWN PRINCE FAHAD MEETINGS OF JUNE 1974 MEAN, IF THE USG IS TAKING SUCH A NEGATIVE STAND TOWARDS OUR YOUTH. THE CASE FOR GIVING OFFICIAL SAUDI STUDENTS A-2 VISAS IS A GOOD ONE; EVEN IF IT WERE WEAKER WE WOULD ARGUE THIS WAS NOT THE PLACE AND TIME TO PUSH A LOGICAL INTERPRETATION TO ITS FARTHEST EXTREME.

G. VOLUME OF WORK AND ARABIC LANGUAGE PREVENT INTERVIEWING ALL GOVERNMENT SPONSORED STUDENTS. HOWEVER, MFA NOTE EXAMINED FOR CORRECTNESS AND NEEDED INQUIRIES MADE IN SELECTED CASES THROUGH AID OF AN INTERPRETER. PROCEDURES OUTLINED FOR STUDENT VISA APPLICANTS ARE FOLLOWED.

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